

**To:** COTHERN, SHAYNE (DNR)[SHAYNE.COTHERN@dnr.wa.gov]; Kato, Justin (ATG)[JustinK@ATG.WA.GOV]  
**From:** SCHMIDT, LINDIE (DNR)  
**Sent:** Fri 10/27/2017 6:29:28 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Information request from EPA regarding Sesko Pontoons

Hello Shayne,

Did you speak with Justin Kato at the AAG who is assigned to this project? I would wait to hear back from him regarding the status before sending an official response. If noon is a firm deadline, try to give him a call.

The Sesko trespass is a complicated site. DNR has already removed three derelict Sesko vessels from the harbor area. DNR currently has a claim filed in the probate of the Sesko estate. The claim is for:

- 1) The unauthorized use and occupancy of the harbor area by the pontoons and vessels,
- 2) The costs associated with the removal and disposal of the three derelict vessels.

The probate process is going slowly because of the numerous claims against the Sesko estate.

The Sesko estate has been unsuccessful at contracting a salvage company to remove the pontoons. DNR has explored some options for removal of the pontoons. The pontoons were added to the Derelict Vessel Removal List. However, DNR does not currently have funding to pursue removal.

Also, during the process of exploring removal options, the site was designated a cleanup action area. The cleanup action is in the process of remedial investigation and feasibility studies. With the cleanup action unresolved, there is uncertainty regarding if removal of the pontoons, which are partially embedded in the beach, would create an alternate pathway. This has changed the scope of the pontoon removal project.

**Lindie Schmidt**

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

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**From:** COTHERN, SHAYNE (DNR)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** SCHMIDT, LINDIE (DNR) <LINDIE.SCHMIDT@dnr.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Information request from EPA regarding Sesko Pontoons  
**Importance:** High

Lindie here is the draft response for your review per your request. Please get back to me by noon so that I can provide this response to EPA in a timely manner.

Thanks!

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Eva,

I wanted to follow up on status update request regarding removal of Sesko's pontoons illegally located on and impacting state owned aquatic land (SOAL). As I noted during call, an ownership survey would need to be conducted to confirm whether all or just a portion of these pontoons are on SOAL. I will provide a brief summary below of efforts DNR has undertaken to attempt to have these objects removed.

DNR has sent numerous correspondence to the Seskos via the Attorney General's Office regarding our demand to see them removed but they have failed to provide a plan to do so. We can put you in contact with the assigned attorney if you need further information regarding these demands and the responses we have

received (or lack thereof).

DNR staff have explored other avenues for removal. The most recent effort was an attempt to have Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) use this removal as a salvage training exercise. Unfortunately JBLM decided in the end that this project was beyond the scope of what they were looking for as a project.

Various salvage companies have expressed interest in salvaging for scrap metal. None of these companies have completed or have been willing to complete regulatory permits necessary to initiate removal process.

Our Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP) has added these pontoons to their list and have posted trespass notices to initiate process. As I explained during our call, existing DVRP funds can only be used to remove certain size vessels. Funds for the removal of these pontoons would need to be allocated by the legislature.

I hope this summary is sufficient to meet your needs. Please let me know if you have further questions.

**Shayne Cothorn**

DNR Aquatics-Environmental Specialist

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